



HIGHLIGHTS

50%

Increase in asylum applications in the Caribbean between 2015 and 2016

40

Countries of origin of persons of concern in the region

24

Local NGO and Red Cross partners in the region

Asylum-seekers

Ranking by country of origin

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. El Salvador | 6. Venezuela |
| 2. Haiti | 7. Colombia |
| 3. Honduras | 8. Syria |
| 4. Guatemala | 9. Jamaica |
| 5. Cuba | 10. Bangladesh |



Context information

The UNHCR's Regional Office in Washington covers the United States, 15 Caribbean states and 9 overseas territories including Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago; the British overseas territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands; and the Dutch overseas territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten.

UNHCR's Office in The Netherlands oversees activities in the municipalities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba; UNHCR's Office in Paris covers activities in the French overseas departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana; and the Regional Office in Panama oversees activities in Cuba. (Please visit reporting.unhcr.org for individual fact sheets for The Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago.)

In the Caribbean region, UNHCR provides technical support and advice to governments, conducts refugee status determination, works with local partners to deliver assistance and promotes durable solutions for recognized refugees. UNHCR also works alongside partners in the region to prevent and reduce statelessness.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 21** national staff
- 10** international staff

Offices:

A Regional Office in Washington and **5** country offices in The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Throughout the Caribbean region, UNHCR works in close partnership with a network of local organizations, including National Red Cross Societies and other non-governmental organizations, to conduct its protection activities, such as:

- Identifying asylum seekers and ensuring access to refugee status determination procedures;
- Distributing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable persons of concern;
- Assisting refugees and stateless individuals in obtaining access to rights and services in the country of asylum;
- Helping refugees find durable solutions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Conducting individual refugee status determination on behalf of Caribbean governments;
- Conducting advocacy for refugee protection in line with international standards and promoting accession to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;
- Supporting Governments with the development of refugee legislation and policies, and advocating for systematic screening and referral mechanisms, access to territory and asylum procedures, and alternatives to immigration detention;
- Providing technical advice on nationality legislation, promoting the removal of gaps in nationality laws and practice that may give rise to statelessness, and promoting accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- Facilitating trainings for Governments and partners on issues related to the prevention and reduction of statelessness and refugee protection, including alternatives to immigration detention and contingency planning for refugee emergencies;
- Advocating for the development of balanced migration policies with full respect of international refugee law and consistent approaches on a regional level;
- Promoting durable solutions, including local integration in host countries; resettlement to third countries, including through the *Regional Refugee Transfer Mechanism* in Trinidad and Tobago; and providing support to those individuals who are stateless or who are at risk of statelessness by assisting with naturalization procedures, obtaining documentation to verify their nationality or otherwise working to find solutions to their situation.

REGIONAL DIMENSION

The Caribbean region is confronted with an increasingly complex phenomenon of mixed migration that involves asylum-seekers, refugees, victims of human trafficking, and stateless persons, along with other categories of migrants. The involvement of Caribbean States in the Cartagena +30 Process, which resulted in the adoption of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action in December 2014, has presented new opportunities to advance refugee protection in the region.

The Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action has created momentum for capacity building and exchanges of good practices across the wider Americas and spurred the establishment of the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC), a regional forum to discuss refugee protection in the context of mixed migration. Twenty Caribbean Countries participated in the First Technical Meeting of the Caribbean Migration Consultations, hosted by Trinidad and Tobago in December 2016. They underscored their commitment to promoting more consistent approaches towards refugee protection and migration issues, strengthened partnerships, increased capacity building and innovative ways of responsibility sharing in the region. The introduction of the Quality Assurance Initiative (QAI) in the region and the *UNHCR Technical Guide for the Development of Refugee Legislation in the Caribbean* also present new opportunities for guiding the development of comprehensive asylum systems in the Caribbean.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: **Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Denmark (23M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15M) | Germany (12M)**

Contacts:

Catia Lopes, External Relations Officer, lopes@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 22 739 7204